



Congressional Record

MR. BISHOP (GA). Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I were shocked and saddened to learn of the awful events in Tucson, Arizona last Saturday. First and foremost, our prayers are with Gabby Giffords, her family, her staff, and the other victims of this senseless tragedy.

Since she was first elected in 2006, Gabby Giffords has been one of the brightest lights in the Congress. I have gotten to know her personally in the Blue Dog Coalition. I have been especially impressed by her intelligence, her warm personality, and her singular ability to bridge differences and bring people together. These qualities, and the fact that she was attacked while serving her constituents, make the situation all the more heartbreaking.

In the Book of Isaiah it is written: "Come let us reason together." Let us take this opportunity to pause and reflect on the lives of the victims, the heroism of the first responders, and the bedrock principle of American democracy – reaffirmed in the resolution before us today – the right to assemble peacefully and to petition the government for the redress of grievances.

We must not let violence or the threat of violence deter us from representing our constituents and doing the nation's business. God bless Gabby Giffords, the injured, the families of those who were killed, the people of Arizona, and the United States of America.